

# Nouvel Fonkoze

VOLUME 22 ISSUE 2

Opportunities & Change  
**RURAL HAITI**

Planting Seeds of Hope

We're Planting *Seeds of Hope*

# RURAL HAITI

*to eradicate extreme poverty*



[Where We Work]

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[Where We Work]

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**There is no mountain too high**

or road too difficult that will deter us from trying to reach rural families who only need an opportunity, a viable way, to overcome extreme poverty.

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## Our Team: *At work, in the field*



If you have ever visited any part of rural Haiti, then you know how difficult it is to get from one place to another. Unpaved roads, mountainous terrains and rivers in between make traveling in these remote areas seem almost impossible. A mile by car, for example, can take hours depending on the “road” conditions and stoplights are a luxury that typically only exist in big cities like Port-au-Prince.

These obstacles, however, are no match for our resilient, on-the-ground team in Haiti. Their determination and passion for our mission will never cease to amaze me. To reach families living in the Central Plateau, for example, our CLM team will often opt to travel on foot. Even on the hottest days, walking five miles up a mountain seems more practical than driving a vehicle with air conditioning.

When we say, “There is no mountain too high or road too difficult” that will deter our team from trying to bring opportunities of hope and change to vulnerable communities throughout rural Haiti, we mean it. Every day, we are making progress towards our ultimate goal of *eradicating* extreme poverty in rural Haiti.

With you by our side, we can do it. Thank you for your support!

With gratitude,

Mabel Valdivia  
Executive Director  
Fonkoze USA





# Paying it Forward

[Elda Derilais, CLM]

**CLM** is Fonkoze's 18-month Graduation Approach program for women & persons with disabilities living in ultra-poverty.

Two and a half years after graduating from our ultra-poverty alleviation program CLM (Chemen Lavi Miyò or Pathway to a Better Life), Elda Derilais (pictured below with her children) is still making progress. The *mabi* (a popular Haitian herbal drink flavored with cinnamon and vanilla extract) business she started while in the program continues to grow and she is making plans to expand it even further than where it is today.

But Elda's story of success doesn't

end there. Taking the valuable lessons she learned from the program, such as life skills, livestock rearing and money management, she has found a meaningful way to "pay it forward" by empowering members of her rural community to overcome extreme poverty as well. Recruiting several women from her area, Elda started a women's group called "Organization of Tough Women of Pitifon."

Together, they provide counseling and training based on the lessons learned from CLM. **HOPE** at work!



Elda is one of over 6600 women who has participated in CLM as of YE 2017. **The graduation success rate is 97%**. Learn more about CLM and our other programs of hope: [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org)



Photo: Maxence Bradley

## Portraits of Hope, Change & Possibilities



With **you by our side**, we've brought hope-filled **opportunities** to thousands of rural families living in poverty.

Let's reach more: [give.fonkoze.org](https://give.fonkoze.org)

Imagine for a moment that you are an energetic seven-year-old girl living with her mom and younger brother in one of the most remote parts of Haiti.

Far away from civilization, your entire world as you know it is the two of them, the one-room makeshift house you live in and the mountain it delicately sits on. Mom is your lifeline, protector and comforter. And your little brother, as annoying as he can be to you at times, is yours to look after.

Despite having very little, like food and a proper roof that can protect you from the rain, the three of you still find something to smile about every day. You may not have much,

which makes life very hard (you see that this makes mom really sad, even though she tries to hide it), but together you are holding on to hope. After all, even the rain, no matter how mean it can sometimes be, can't take away the voice you were born with.

**"something to smile about..."**

So you use it. Every day you sing. You sing as loud as you can so that it fills the vast spaces in between the mountains and mountains that surround you. You just know it in your heart of heart that one day, someone will finally hear you.

And they did.



# Investing in Hope

[Brian & Diana Lovett, Donors]



Give Securely Online  
[give.fonkoze.org](https://give.fonkoze.org)



When asked why they have chosen to support Fonkoze for over a decade, Illinoisans Brian and Diana Lovett gave very different reasons.

A nurse for 45 years, Diana's philanthropic spirit is magnified by her passionate heart and drive to help others improve their state of wellbeing. She says, "Fonkoze gives their clients an opportunity to elevate their standard of living for themselves and their families. Not only does the financial situation of the client improve, but the *physical*, *social* and *psychological* health of the entire family improves as well."

Brian, who is a former investment advisor and John Deere executive, is admittedly a numbers person. He sees Fonkoze's work as something worth "investing" in. When speaking about our microlending programs, he points out two main reasons why he continues to support Fonkoze: the organization has developed a strong and effective business plan and its business model is very effective

in providing long-term support to clients for when disasters like earthquakes or hurricanes strike.

"For these reasons and many others, I continue to believe Fonkoze represents one of the few most promising ways to address and assist in reducing the long-term poverty in Haiti. It is far more effective to have goals that are directed at 'enabling' people to help themselves."

Diana says that although she and Brian have different educational backgrounds and career paths, there is one area where they both agree: "the positive impact that Fonkoze has on the clients it serves."



## Invest in Hope.

When you donate to Fonkoze, you are *investing* in our *hope* driven work to empower rural families to overcome poverty.



**Fonkoze**

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## Ways **YOU** can make a real difference today

Your gift to Fonkoze helps us to empower women throughout rural Haiti every year!

► **Make a tax-deductible contribution.**

Your gift is more important than ever! Visit [give.fonkoze.org](http://give.fonkoze.org) to make a secure online contribution or send a check payable to **Fonkoze USA to 1718 Connecticut Ave NW, Suite 201, Washington, DC 20009.**

► **Give through the employer matching gift program.**

Submit your company's matching gift form with your donation, and Fonkoze USA will process and return it to your employer. Or, send us your donation first, then present your acknowledgment letter to your employer for processing a match.

► **Give through the CFC.** Fonkoze USA participates in the Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Designate your contribution to Fonkoze USA, CFC ID # 31204.

► **Remember a loved one.** Give a gift in honor or memory of a loved one. Provide the details via our online giving form at [give.fonkoze.org](http://give.fonkoze.org), and Fonkoze will notify your honoree on your behalf with a beautiful card.

## Leave a Lasting Legacy for Fonkoze and Haiti

Join us in working shoulder to shoulder for a better Haiti – where rural Haitians can participate in their country's development, and where families have access to poverty-alleviating financial services, education, healthcare and more.

**Leave a lasting legacy** towards rural economic development in Haiti by becoming a member of the **Fonkoze USA Shoulder-to-Shoulder Society.**

To find out how to make bequests to Fonkoze, contact Mabel Valdivia, Fonkoze USA Director, at 202-628-9033 or [mvaldivia@fonkoze.org](mailto:mvaldivia@fonkoze.org).

Please visit our website, [fonkoze.org](http://fonkoze.org), for more information on how you can support our work.

### Did You Know?



**Fonkoze USA** continues to be recognized as a highly rated non-profit, with a strong commitment to transparency and dedication to effective stewardship of the donations we receive.